

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FRANCE SEEKS NEW MIDDLE EAST ROLE

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP IS DESIGNED TO EXPLOIT THE IDEAS OF THE SUPER POWER CONDOMINIUM THERE AND TO ESTABLISH IN ITS PLACE A FRENCH PLUS COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE. HIS TRIP IS ALSO DESIGNED TO ASSURE FRANCE A LONG-TERM SUPPLY OF OIL, TO FURTHER ITS AMBITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND TO EARN A ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT PROCESS. JOBERT WILL OFFER THE SYRIANS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC AID IN AN ATTEMPT TO REESTABLISH FRANCE AS AN OPTION TO TOTAL RELIANCE ON RUSSIA, AND WILL SEEK WAYS IN WHICH TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN POW DILEMMA. JOBERT WILL RETURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST PRIOR TO JULY AND WILL VISIT SIX OR SEVEN ADDITIONAL STATES INCLUDING ISRAEL. (SECRET) PARIS 2429, 1/28.

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2. FRENCH RATIONALE FOR UN ENERGY CONFERENCE

QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTOR PUAUX DENIED ALLEGATIONS THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A UN-SPONSORED ENERGY CONFERENCE WAS

INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH, OR IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE FEBRUARY 11 CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT NIXON. PUAUX ADDED THAT JOBERT HAD REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A UN CONFERENCE IN EXCHANGES WITH THE SECRETARY PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION. PUAUX BELIEVES THAT A UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE, WHOSE BASIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL, WOULD LESSEN THE TENSION GENERATED BY THE ENERGY CRISIS, AND NOTED THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL HAD BEEN VERY FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY SYG WALDHEIM. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 2440, 1/28.

3. SYRIANS MOVE TOWARDS GENEVA

ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS REPORT THAT SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SECRETARY'S RECENT TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND AS A RESULT WILL SHORTLY BE MAKING POSITIVE PLANS FOR SYRIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. PRESIDENT ASSAD IS EXPECTED TO CONVENE THE CONGRESS OF THE PROGRESSIVE FRONT WITHIN A FEW DAYS TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR SYRIA'S ATTENDANCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 1011, 1/28.

4. NORTH KOREANS SAY NO TO PARK

THE NORTH KOREANS, IN REJECTING SOUTH KOREA'S PROPOSAL FOR A NONAGGRESSION AGREEMENT, POINTED OUT THAT THEY STILL HOLD FAST TO THE PYONGYANG POSITION OF A SETTLEMENT THROUGH THE KIM IL SUNG FIVE POINT PROPOSAL. THE NORTH CALLED THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT A TRICK DESIGNED TO INSURE THE PERMANENT DIVISION OF KOREA. EMBASSY SEOUL COMMENTS THAT ALTHOUGH THE REJECTION WAS EXPECTED, THE EIGHT DAY PERIOD OF SILENCE FOLLOWING PRESIDENT PARK'S NEWS CONFERENCE LED TO SPECULATION THAT THE NORTH WAS HAVING PROBLEMS FIGURING OUT A RESPONSE. (CONFIDENTIAL) SEOUL 676, 1/28.

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